

# PARISH AND SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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## PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

<b>Monday</b>	March 12	Mass: 7:00am
<b>Tuesday</b>	March 13	Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm Mass: 5:30pm (5th Anniversary of election of Pope FRANCIS)
<b>Wednesday</b>	March 14	Mass: 7:00am
<b>Thursday</b>	March 15	Adoration: 4:30-5:30pm (Reconciliation available) Mass: 5:30pm
<b>Friday</b>	March 16	Mass: 9:30am
<b>Saturday</b>	March 17	<b>SAINT PATRICK</b> Mass: 7:30am Reconciliation: 5 - 5:30pm Vigil Mass 6pm
<b>Sunday</b>	March 18	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Masses: 7:00am, 9:00am 10:45am (Polish)
<b>Monday</b>	March 19	<b>SAINT JOSEPH</b> Mass: 7:00am (Convent)

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

### ROSE SUNDAY

11<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2018

**READINGS:** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10;  
Jn 3:14-21

Today is **REJOICE** Sunday (from the first word of today's Entrance Antiphon). The Readings of the Mass spell out the reasons for rejoicing. The **First Reading** shows how God remained faithful to His people in spite of their infidelities. God's promises were not nullified by the sins of His people. It was because of their sins that God allowed His people to be exiled to Babylon. But His mercy is seen in their homecoming.



The Reading leads into the **Gospel**. God's love and mercy are seen in the fact that He sent His Son to save us. Jesus came into the world as its light. Sadly, some preferred darkness to the light, thus seeking their own condemnation. Judgement is not passed by God; rather, people judge themselves in response to the light.

In the **Second Reading** St Paul stresses the enormity of God's love for us. We owe our salvation not to our own efforts but to God's goodness.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Recently Deceased:** Maria GONZALEZ, Carmel AMBROSOLI (Sister of Fr John Pickering OFM)

**Anniversaries:** Sr Rita ZANPE, Rose WYLIE, Scott DUNSTAN, Richard BAMPTON, Don BUCKNAL

### Rosters of next weekend

17 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Church Cleaning	W & J Rodgers, J Andersson	
	Lawns	J Lonard, H Yates, F Timpano, S Carrigan	
	Acolytes	Lectors	Welcomers
Sat 6pm	A Carlotto,	R Baxendale	V Cleary
18 <sup>th</sup> Sun 7am	A Michielin	M Walsh	S Brown
9am	N Dwyer, C Carolan	R Green	B Spain, G Petric
Counters	B & P Walker, A Kelly		
Children's Liturgy	K Calvert, M Matos		

### PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Catholic Women's League:** 2nd Thursday of the month, 10:30am

St Joseph's room. New members welcome.

Contact: Barbara 42711584 or Margaret 42715804

**St. Vincent de Paul Conference:** Tues, 7:30pm St. Joseph's room

**Parish Pastoral Council:** 2nd Monday of alternate months, 7:30pm

St Joseph's room

#### Nursing Home Masses

**Hillside Nursing Home:** 1st Tuesday of the month, 2pm

**Figtree Nursing Home:** 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:45am

**Villa Maria Nursing Home:** 3rd Tuesday of the month, 9:30am

**Refreshments after the 9am Mass on 1st weekend of the month.**

### EASTER CEREMONIES

Volunteers are needed for the various ministries for the Easter Ceremonies.

If you would like to be involved in the parish ceremonies for the most important week in our Church please write your name on the sheets on the seat in the centre aisle of the church.

- ◆ Acolytes
- ◆ Readers
- ◆ Servers
- ◆ Welcomers
- ◆ Volunteers for the Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday

### CATHOLICARE ST PATRICK'S RACE DAY FUNDRAISER – SAT 24 MARCH KEMBLA GRANGE RACECOURSE

All monies raised will go towards supporting siblings in families of children with a disability. Single tickets or tables available. For more info contact Trish on 42549318

trishc@catholiccare.dow.org.au

www.catholiccare.dow.org.au

## Gospel Reflection

In Christ there is no trace of darkness.

His light shows up the darkness in us.

His truth shows up our lies.

His integrity shows up our falseness.

His generosity shows up our selfishness.

His peace shows up our conflicts.

His openness to others shows how closed we are.

However, we should not be afraid of His light.

Rather, we should rejoice in it.

Compared to His light,  
other lights are mere candles in the wind.

Christ, radiant light of the world,  
guide our steps in the way of truth and goodness  
and lead us through the gloom of this world  
to the kingdom of unfailing light.

### FR GRAHAM'S LENTEN TIPS

- \* 5 minutes prayer each day
- \* An extra Mass each week
- \* A good Confession
- \* Generosity to the poor through PROJECT COMPASSION



### PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (14 February 2018) and Trinity Sunday (27 May 2018) unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

### INVITATION TO THE CHRISM MASS – WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH 7.30PM

Each year during Holy Week the Chrism Mass is celebrated at St Francis Xavier Cathedral. If you have never participated, you are missing one of the most solemn and significant liturgies of our Church. During the Mass, the Priests of the Diocese renew their commitment to priestly service; Bishop Brian blesses the oil of catechumens (for Baptism) and the oil of the sick (for Anointing of the Sick) and consecrates the oil of chrism (for Baptism, Confirmation, the Ordination of clergy and the consecration of altars). The oils are then distributed to clergy to be used during the year with their local communities. Everyone is warmly invited to join Bishop Brian and our clergy to celebrate this significant event in the life of the Church.



***“God knows how weak we are  
and though God may be sorry,  
God is not surprised at our falls.”***

*St. Mary of the Cross 1877*

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER**

**FROM BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD'S 2018 LENTEN MESSAGE**

‘At all times, the call of God is a radical one, to a new closeness with the God who loves us. For me, as the title of this year’s diocesan Lenten program says, it really is a “surrender”—a turning over to God, allowing God to be near and, ultimately, allowing him to work through me in this new journey to which he has called us.’

**CALLED TO MINISTRY? – UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING EVENTS**

Have you considered serving your parish as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or an Adult Altar Server, or a Minister of Communion of the Sick and Homebound? The 2018 Diocesan Training courses in these ministries are scheduled as follows:

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion 10am-1pm,  
Servers continue 10am-3pm Saturday 14 April 2018**

**Xavier Conference Centre, Wollongong**

*Bishop Brian Mascord and members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission will lead two sessions in the morning covering the common ministry of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and one session after lunch for servers. Morning tea and lunch provided.*

**Communion of the Sick & Homebound 10am-2.30pm**

**Saturday 16 June 2018 at Xavier Conference Centre,  
Wollongong**

*Pre-requisite of prior training as an Acolyte, Adult Altar Server or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Led by members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. Morning tea and lunch provided.*

**For further information visit [www.liturgy.dow.org.au](http://www.liturgy.dow.org.au) or contact Paul Mason [liturgy@dow.org.au](mailto:liturgy@dow.org.au) or 4222 2462. Registration essential to Anthony Rewak 4222 2465 or [anthony.rewak@dow.org.au](mailto:anthony.rewak@dow.org.au)**

**THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM –  
AIRS 11 MARCH 2018**

This week on the Journey, we continue to use the Gospel reflection from Wollongong Diocese Lenten program, Sr Hilda From the Abbey reminds us that we are God’s servant and Trish McCarthy encourages us during Lent to live with Simplicity us We are so very lucky to have such talented music artists on our show. Put it all together and you have an inspiring and up lifting show about faith, hope, love and life. Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

**THE WOLLONGONG CATHOLIC DINNER CLUB TOGETHER**

with newly ordained Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD are delighted to announce a keynote speaker The Hon Timothy Andrew Fischer AC on the topic of “From the Riverina to the Hub of Rome”. You are invited to dinner on Friday 13 April 6pm for 6:30pm start at Centro CBD, 28 Stewart Street Wollongong (Opposite Aldi). For Tickets (\$45 each) please contact Cathedral Office 4228 6511 or [mjcambo@gmail.com](mailto:mjcambo@gmail.com) 0490 022 313 or Jim 4228 6791. RSVP by Friday 6 April.

**ROSEMARY GOLDIE** International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate ROSEMARY GOLDIE, an Australian from Sydney, was one of the first women appointed an auditor at the Second Vatican Council where she took up the challenge to promote the inclusion of laity at the Second Vatican Council. As a distinguished Australian Catholic woman, Rosemary Goldie occupies a place in our nation’s Catholic story alongside the likes of Caroline Chisholm and Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Read the full story of Rosemary Goldie by Dr Michael Costigan: <https://www.opw.catholic.org.au/latest-news/a-reflection-on-the-life-of-rosemary-goldie.html>

**LENTEN GROUP**

at St Joseph’s Meeting Room  
Wednesdays 7:30pm

**PROJECT COMPASSION**  
FOR A JUST FUTURE

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**11th March 2018**



Ditosa in Mozambique is cared for by her grandmother after her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses. Featured in Project Compassion 2013, aged 12, thanks to Caritas Australia’s support, Ditosa has now graduated from school with plans for university.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help young women like Ditosa to grow up with an education, confidence and hope, providing them with a just future.**

**A Just Future starts with your support!** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

My dear people,

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent Mass begins with the words: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful and be satisfied at her consoling breasts" (Entrance Antiphon). What is the Church's message on this particular Sunday by merging the themes of penance with rejoicing?

At the mid-point of Lent our attention is drawn to the fact that the penitential season is half over, a pause for refreshment is taken (this is Mothers Day in England, serving girls being allowed to go home on this day in medieval times), and spirits are raised. The journey is half over—today we are encouraged to focus on the goal rather than the challenging process leading to the goal. The penitential colour of purple gives way to joyful rose, and we re-examine the integrity of our Lenten journey thus far. The Church, never the harsh taskmaster but always the loving mother, calls her children to pause for refreshment.



In particular, this joyful pause can serve as an occasion to evaluate one's Lenten penitential practices. What have you chosen this year? Are you being faithful to them? Are they working? Are they serving your spiritual needs adequately? Each of us benefits from examining our spiritual program. Sometimes that means that sin must be recognised as sin and avoided in the future. If we turn to classical teachers like St Thomas Aquinas, we must examine our Lenten practices according to their ability to help us grow in virtue.

God does not want ascetic champions—He wants people who love. Penitential practices, then, are supports we assume in life that are intended to help us love better. This is what we want to evaluate at mid-point in Lent—are our penitential practices increasing our capacity to love?

An illustration from the ordinary process of human development gives us an insight into the process of spiritual growth through penance. Imagine a small child, six weeks of age. He wakes in the middle of the night feeling unwell. He cries loudly and unceasingly, disturbing everyone in the house until his need is addressed. It means nothing to him that others need rest for the next day's activities. The infant's only instinct is to fulfil his own desires.

The same child, ten years later, again feeling unwell during the night, will go directly to the parents seeking attention, but will probably do so without disturbing the others in the home. Finally, as an adult, the same person will try to take care of himself as quietly as possible so as not to disturb his family members while they take their rest. What we observe here is the process of maturity, for whereas the infant's only instinct is to be self-centred, as the person matures he grows in selflessness—the habit of thinking more of others and being less self-centred. Another word for this habit of thinking of others and less of self is holiness.

The habit of selflessness is cultivated by acts of penance and expressions of self-denial. We can pass up something desirable (that extra treat outside of mealtime, that extra hour in front of the TV, the desire to speak unkindly about someone) then we can claim a victory in self-discipline. When we have self-discipline, we have achieved self-control, When we enjoy self-control, we are in possession of ourselves and only then are we able to give ourselves away. In other words, only the person with self-possession has sufficient freedom from being preoccupied with taking care of self first in order to place Christ (and the needs of His people) at the centre of their life. Penance trains us in the habit of thinking of others first.

Every single act of penance helps us to grow in this kind of selflessness, maturity and holiness. Eventually we realize that if we cannot occasionally give up that snack or extra beer or wine, there is no way in the world we will ever develop the strength to pass up the temptation to speak uncharitably about another or to commit any number of other sins. Our Lenten acts of penance, then, cultivate within us the strength to be more loving. The Church does not recommend Lenten penance so that each of us can note our capacity for sacrifice. The Church recommends Lenten penances so that we can more easily grow in our capacity to love.

*Fr Graham Schmitzer*

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